

NOTES ABOUT THE OLD WORLD GENUS *HEXAMEROCERUS* REUTER  
(HETEROPTERA: REDUVIIDAE: ECTRICHODIINAE)

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*Abstract.*—*Hexamerocerus* and a syntype of *H. punctatus* (Stål) are redescribed, *H. quadrimaculatus*, sp. nov. is described from Mashonaland, South Africa, and a key to the four species of the genus is given.

*Key Words:* Reduviidae, *Hexamerocerus*, *H. punctatus* redescription, *H. quadrimaculatus*, n. sp., key

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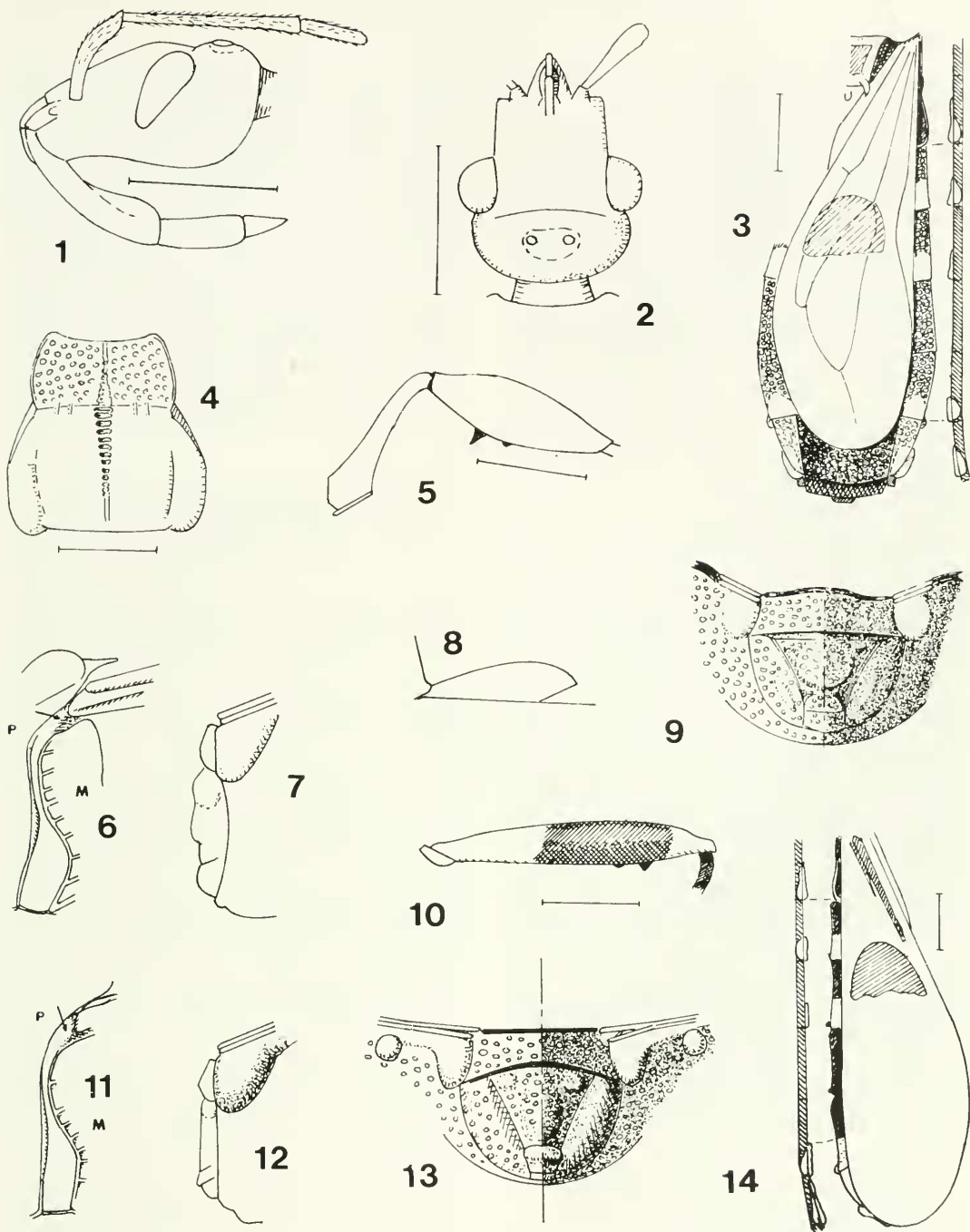
Reuter (1881) described the South African genus *Hexamerocerus* for the type species *H. nobilis* from Zanzibar. Thanks to Mrs. J. Margerison-Knight, from the British Natural History Museum, I was able to examine a female syntype of *H. punctatus*, describe a new species, and prepare the notes discussed below. Measurements are given in mm.

*Hexamerocerus* Reuter

Reuter 1881 (1883). 12: 306. Type *Hexamerocerus nobilis* Reuter 1881, 12: 307.

Body parallel-sided, narrow, not flattened; head finely and sparsely granulose, both lobes thinly corrugate, broader behind than in front of eyes, without ventrolateral pouches behind eyes; antennae six segmented, the first about half as long as head or second segment, second the longest, about twice as long as each of the last segments, all segments short, with fine decumbent setae, thickened; rostrum moderately thick, first segment almost as long as last two combined, slightly dilated apically; eyes relatively small, not reaching upper or lower margins of head. Thorax wider than long, without collar, anterior margin below dorsal

surface of anterior lobe; anterior lobe shorter than posterior lobe, coarsely punctate above and laterally, lateral margins carinate; posterior lobe transversely corrugate (only the corrugations in the mediolongitudinal impression illustrated in Fig. 4); median longitudinal sulcus of pronotum extending across transverse constriction just before base of posterior lobe; mesopleurae horizontally and metapleura vertically corrugate; mesosternum radially and metasternum transversely corrugate, the latter with a broad median depression; scutellum quadrangular, wider than long, two widely separated, short, converging prongs, on apex. Anterior femur incrassate, second slightly incrassate, third slightly thickening toward apex; pro- and mesotibia slightly expanded apically, both with spongy fossa on slanted apical surface; each femur ventrally with a postmedian toothlike spine following one or two small spines. Tarsi 3, 3, 3; third segment as long as first two combined; claws slightly expanded basally. Hemelytral surface smooth. Abdomen coarsely punctate dorsally and ventrally, slightly compressed laterally, parallel sided, connexivum exposed, apical connexival angles slightly produced as elevated, rounded angulations, sternal



Figs. 1-14. 1-9. *Hexamerocerus punctatus* (Stål), female syntype. 1, head, lateral view. 2, head, dorsal view. 3, hemelytron and connexivum, dorsal and lateral view, respectively; colors of hemelytron inverted. 4, pronotum, dorsal view. 5, anterior leg, external view. 6, evaporation area of mesopleural scent gland, lateral view, arrow: opening of gland, P: pronotum, M: mesopleuron. 7, external genitalia, lateral view. 8, scutellum, lateral view. 9, external genitalia, caudal view. 10-14. *Hexamerocerus quadrimaculatus*, n. sp., female holotype. 10, hind femur, external view. 11, evaporation area of mesopleural scent gland, lateral view. 12, external genitalia, lateral view. 13, external genitalia, caudal view. 14, hemelytron and connexivum, dorsal and lateral view respectively; colors of hemelytron inverted. All scale lines equivalent to 1.0 mm.

sutures crenulate; spiracles circular, each on a globose area.

Species with blackish-blue or black metallic bodies, apical half of some connexival segments yellow or pale orange, some species with small yellowish areas in different parts of body; hemelytra dull, usually with a grayish semicircular area and with or without a longitudinal fascia on corium; legs uniformly dark, polished or with base and apex of segments fulvous; anterior lobe of pronotum darker than posterior lobe. Basal and apical connexival segments with caudal halves yellow above and below, the middle segments with connexivum colored as corresponding sterna (Fig. 14).

Reuter considered *Hexamerocerus* close to *Labidocoris* Mayr, *Mendis* Stål, and *Cleptria* Stål. It can be separated from all African ectrichodiine genera by the narrow, metallic-blue body, a six-segmented antenna, the relatively thick rostrum with the first segment almost as long as last two combined, the coarsely punctured body, and the transversely corrugate posterior lobe of pronotum. Not mentioned before in the literature is a narrow, vertical evaporation area, probably associated with a scent gland, anteriorly on the mesopleura (Fig. 6). It differs from other pleural sclerites by its dull surface; in Fig. 6 the double lines in the surrounding sclerites represent carinae or corrugations. The opening of the gland is above, just below the beginning of the caudal extension of the posterior lobe of the pronotum (Fig. 6, arrow). A similar area occurs in at least some other ectrichodiine genera.

*Hexamerocerus punctatus* (Stål)

Figs. 1-9

*Pirena punctata* Stål, 1863, 3: 47, Caffraria.

*Ectrichodia punctata*: Walker, 1873, 8: 46.

*Hexamerocerus punctatus*: Bergroth, 1894, 38: 547.

Female.—Coloration metallic black: head, anterior lobe of pronotum laterally and dorsally, meso- and metapleurae, scutellum,

basal half of connexival segments II, III, IV, VI, and VII, connexival segment V, basal half of ventral connexival segments II, III, VI, and VII, thoracic sterna, and genital segments. Antenna brown; legs dark brown, tarsi pale brown. Caudal half of connexival segments mentioned above yellow (Fig. 3). Abdominal sterna metallic dark blue. Posterior lobe of pronotum metallic dark brown, a shade paler than legs. Hemelytra: clavus and corium, very dark red, membrane black; a gray, suboval transverse spot across on apex of corium; hemelytra reaching middle of last tergum.

Head (Figs. 1, 2).—Anterior lobe of pronotum dorsally and laterally grossly punctate (Fig. 4), lateral margin carinate; median longitudinal sulcus shallow and narrow along anterior half, on caudal half gradually broader and deeper, crossing over onto posterior lobe; median longitudinal sulcus relatively broad anteriorly, tapering to and ending before basal margin of lobe. Evaporation area of mesopleuron as in Fig. 6. Scutellum width 0.6, length 0.5, with discal quadrangular depression, slightly raised towards apex (Fig. 8). Legs: pro- and mesofemora incrassate (Figs. 5, 10), metafemur slightly thickening toward apex, slightly constricted apically; large spine on femora about  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  diameter of segment.

Head—length 1.40, width across eyes 1.02, width behind eyes 0.87, width in front of eyes 0.62, distance from anterior margin of eye to apex of antennophore 0.31, from anterior margin of eye to apex of head 0.62, from posterior margin of eye to base of posterior lobe 0.43, width of eye 0.19, interocular space 0.64, from interocular suture to apex of head 1.00, from interocular suture to base of posterior lobe 0.4, collum 0.18. Antennal segments: I, 0.62; II, 1.19; III, 1.0; IV, 0.5; V, 1.0, VI missing. Rostral segments: 1.0; 0.62; 0.4. Thorax length 1.93, width 2.12; anterior lobe—length 0.81, greatest width 1.50; posterior lobe—length 1.12, greatest width 2.12. Scutellum width 0.69, length 0.50. Legs; length and depth of

femora:  $1.56 \times 0.5$ ;  $1.68 \times 0.5$ ;  $2.31 \times 0.5$ ; tibiae length: 1.36, 1.50, 2.01 (Figs. 5, 10). Length of abdomen 5.51, margins of connexival segments straight, greatest abdominal width at segment V, 2.62. External genitalia as in Figs. 7 and 9. Total length of body 10.30.

Syntype female, from Pt. Natal, SOUTH AFRICA; pin with: red-margined cardboard circle labeled "type"; blue-margined circle labeled "syntype"; cardboard label typed "*Ectrichodia punctata*"; handwritten label "*punctata* Stål"; in Natural History Museum, London.

*Hexamerocerus quadrimaculatus*,

**n. sp. Maldonado**

Figs. 10-14

Female.—Coloration dark metallic blue: head, anterior lobe of pronotum dorsally and laterally, meso- and metapleura, meso- and metasternum, abdominal sterna, and scutellum; abdominal tergites black; posterior lobe of pronotum brown, with a metallic bluish tinge. Antenna: segments I and II dark brown, III and IV black, others missing; rostrum dark brown. Legs: coxae brown, polished; trochanters pale brown; profemur polished dark brown, apex shortly ringed with stramineous; mesofemur: middle  $\frac{2}{4}$  polished dark brown, apex and base fulvous; metafemur with same colors as mesofemur, as in Fig. 10; protibia: external surface with basal half and apex brown, preapical stramineous ring, internal surface with basal  $\frac{3}{4}$  whitish, apical  $\frac{1}{4}$  brown; mesotibia with both surfaces as protibia externally; metatibia brown, dark stramineous preapically. Tarsi pale brown. Hemelytra black, with grayish corial longitudinal stripe parallel to clavocorial suture, a gray, sub-hemispherical area at end of corium and over base of membrane (Fig. 14). Coloration of connexival segments: dorsal caudal halves of II narrowly, III, IV, VI, and VII entirely yellow; ventral caudal halves of II, III, IV narrowly, VI and VII entirely yellow, the last two fused above and below; spirac-

ular areas VI and VII yellow, apparently fused.

Head—length 1.62, width across eyes 1.16, width behind eyes 1.00, width in front of eyes 0.75, from anterior margin of eye to apex of antennophore 0.40, from anterior margin of eye to apex of head 0.89, from posterior margin of eye to base of posterior lobe of head 0.37, width of eye 0.19, interocular space 0.68, from interocular suture to apex of head 1.02, from same to base of posterior lobe of head 0.6, collum 0.19. Antennal segments: I, 0.75; II, 1.43; III, 0.62; IV, 0.4; V and VI missing. Rostral segments: 1.0; 0.75; 0.37. Thorax: length 2.29, greatest width 2.62, posterior margin slightly angularly produced; anterior lobe length 0.93, width 1.81; posterior lobe length 1.36, width 2.62; evaporation area of mesopleura as in Fig. 11. Scutellum width 0.87, length 0.68. Legs—femora length and depth:  $1.81 \times 0.5$ ;  $1.94 \times 0.5$ ;  $3.06 \times 0.5$ . Tibiae lengths: 1.62, 1.87, 2.75. Hemelytra smooth; slightly surpassing apex of abdomen. Abdomen: margins of connexival segments slightly concave, length 6.77, greatest width at V segment 3.00 (Fig. 14). External genitalia as in Figs. 12 and 13. Total body length 11.06.

Holotype female, Mashonaland, SOUTH AFRICA; 1897, collector unknown; in Natural History Museum, London.

KEY TO THE SPECIES IN *HEXAMEROCERUS*

1. Corium of hemelytra with longitudinal fascia close and parallel to the clavocorial commissure (Fig. 14) ..... 2  
    Corium without such longitudinal fascia (Fig. 3) ..... 3
2. Hemelytra and antennae black; dorsal connexival segments II, III, IV, VI, VII with caudal halves yellow to orange; ventral segments II, III, IV, VI, and VII colored similarly; small yellowish area near each mucron of scutellum, acetabulum, coxae, and first abdominal sternum; length 10.3; Zanzibar . . . . *H. nobilis* Reuter  
    Antenna brown basally, gradually turning to black toward apex; hemelytra dull dark brown; yellow apical half of connexival segments II, III, IV, and yellow of VI and VII fused; body without small yellow areas; length 11.1; Mash-



- onaland, South Africa .....  
 ..... *H. quadrimaculatus*, n. sp.  
 3. Legs black, base and apex of pro- and meso-  
 femora luteus; hemelytra black; Mozambique  
 ..... *H. junodi* Distant  
 Legs uniformly black; clavus and corium dark  
 red, membrane black; 8.84 mm; South Africa  
 ..... *H. punctatus* (Stål)

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